

Annals of the South.

The following from the proceedings of the Convention toward the close of its late session is interesting:

Resolved, unanimously, That the thanks of this Convention are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Hon. D. T. Jamison for the courtesy, dignity, impartiality and ability, with which he has discharged his duties as its Presiding Officer.

The President then delivered the following response:

Gentlemen of the Convention: When first called upon, by your kindness, to preside over the gravest, the ablest, and the most courteous body of gentlemen with whom I have ever been associated in a forty life, extending now to more than by you five years, I was greatly over my unexpected confidence, for a complicated, and now as I felt, it was, as this renewed expression of kindness into a tribute of respect, rather than to good to good in

deed, our acts, during the twenty days of our first session, you have added more than one page to history which will survive—for men will love to look on the opening incidents of a revolution, conducted with a dignity, earnestness, propriety, and an inflexible pursuit of right, which has few examples in past times.

Within the brief interval of less than three months between your first session and this, many striking incidents have crowded, which might, also, become history; but the doubts, fears, struggles, anxieties and hopes deferred, and then the gradual increase of confidence from increased strength and resources, are only fully known to the few, who acted the chief part in the trying scenes of this winter; and they, if they could, probably, will not write its history.

This revolution, so far, has been bloodless. What a glorious consummation it would have been! What a triumph of civilization and Christianity, if the great principles involved in this movement could have been successfully achieved, without shedding a single drop of human blood! But now it seems to be otherwise. While I am yet speaking, a hostile fleet is said to be approaching our shores, and before the coming night closes over us, the sands of Morris' Island may be stained with the best blood of our people. May God show the right!

I congratulate you, gentlemen, at the close of your labors, on the adoption of a Constitution which, I trust, will be found to be as perfect. There are, clauses and omissions which render it much less acceptable to me, but I am far from attaching as great importance to any written Constitution as many appear to do. Written Constitutions are but landmarks to point out the route to be followed; and all experience of the past follows, and demonstrates that a Government most clearly adapted to the capacities, and needs of a people, and its genius and character, or despotic, as the people will be either free or be found to deserve themselves whether. Why, it may be one form or the other of civilization, as asked, is it, that the Semitic race has Eastern nations of the Semitic race has been so unproductive of good times? to contemporaneous of the Semitic race, no that we hold of them to be a curse, no law, no principle of government, no social amelioration? It is because their government was a stern despotism, which interposed an immeasurable distance between the throne and the people; and, it may be added, because their religion was a bloody and degrading superstition, which bowed down to the creature instead of to the Creator. Where is the British Constitution written? Not on paper, but in the traditions and memories of the dominant portion of a race who, in a thousand years, have suffered, without rights to a liberal Government. Where is the Constitution of the French to be found? Not in Jacobin Clubs, nor in the romanesque reveries of Madame Roland and Brissot de Warville; not in the "Three Days of July," nor in the fanciful theories of Lamartine, and in his impracticable doctrines of "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity," but in the will of an absolute monarch, who preserves order and restrains insurrection by half a million of armed men. Where did Black Republicanism get its teachings? Not from the Constitution of the United States, but from the doctrines of a "Higher Law" and an Irrepressible Conflict.

If, therefore, we are wise, if we are virtuous, if we are true to ourselves, the Constitution which we have adopted is the last for generations to come, and is not written on Copernicus, guarded, will you, gentlemen, at this perilous moment—and we part at a moment of unaccountable events—to offer to each of you my best wishes for your present and future welfare, and to repeat my profound thanks for all your confidence and kindness.

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ARRIVAL OF TROOPS.—Three volunteer companies of citizens, from the

which armies can manoeuvre in three days, teaming with ready food and full of rich stores, is an easy thing; to conquer France or England, where the loss of one great battle, and access to one large central city, annihilates the nation, is not impossible or improbable; but to subdue a thinly settled country, big as half of Europe, without a centre, with fifteen different heads, and a thousand strategic lines, with fifteen millions of people, accustomed from childhood to the use of the gun and the horse, trained to fearlessness and of simple wants; to reduce a country so constituted is neither easy, nor probable, nor possible.

The Colonies filled less territorial space, had but few men, and no experience in government or arms; but Great Britain was unable to do anything with them. Indeed, no instance can be found of a nation of artisans and merchants, a city living and manufacturing nation, which has ever been able to conquer an agricultural and country-abiding population. No greater proof could be given of the folly, the fanaticism, the absolute madness that has inspired and stiffened the Northern people throughout these disputes, and in all the stages of the Union's dissolution, than the fact that they are absolutely willing to bring their braggart promises to the test of actual collision. The chances are really a thousand to one against the North. The least ill that could befall the usurpation would be a speedy and mortifying defeat of their attempt to subjugate the Southern Confederacy, for if the war they are commencing should continue many years, and the Southern States should be forced to frame their national power into a great military organization, the result will be an invasion of the North itself—a very different affair from a war over the wide plantation, forests, marshes and mountains of the South. The Northern States have all that attracts the conqueror. There are the great and rich centres of wealth and commerce, which once struck, paralyze braver States than Yankee traders can ever constitute. There lie the true theatres of military exploit in the United States. Population is dense, communication is easy, the race is corrupt, ignoble, selfish, cruel. When America sees its Hamlet, its Napoleon, the Potomac will be his Rubicon, the Susquehanna will afford his Tiber, in New York he will pay his soldiers, and in Boston he will revenge his country.

Hon. W. W. Boyce.—We clip the following from the *Memphis Avalanche*:
“We had the pleasure of a visit yesterday from this gentleman, who is among the first of the very able men who compose the Congress of the Confederate States, at Montgomery. Mr. Boyce had been a member of the House of Representatives of the United States since 1853, but withdrew from that body upon the secession of his State. He was immediately elected from South Carolina to the Provisional Congress, and has been an efficient worker in making the admirable permanent constitution which is to constitute the organic law of the Confederate States. In the Congress of the United States few men of any age, much less his, achieved so enviable a reputation as a profound statesman. His celebrated report in favor of free trade, made to the House at the first session of the Thirty-fifth Congress, has received the approbation of the master minds of the country, as one of the ablest defences of that system ever expressed. Mr. Cobden, the celebrated free trade member of the British House of Commons, informed us that it could not be improved upon, and that he accepted it as the best vindication of his own policy ever written. Mr. Boyce left yesterday to visit his brother, our friend John Boyce, of Panola county, Miss.”

THE EVENT OF THE STRAITS.
Revolutionary spirit which is abroad in the land will soon make the slaveholding States a Pandora which neither the tricks of domestic traitors, nor the force of Abolition enemies, can destroy. This is just as certain as that day succeeds night, and then will the crisis show that she has delayed not forgotten to punish the Unionists.

We shall then have a united, homogeneous Confederacy of fourteen millions fighting for their firesides, their wives, their children, and their sacred honor, against a hated foe. When the shock of conflict comes, the terrors and fears which the Submissionists have conjured up with so much artifice skill to frighten us from the path of honor, will disappear like shadows before the sun.

The page of history are filled with the successes of small and homogenous nations in their conflicts with nations vastly their superiors in numbers. They have rarely always conquered.

The two nations who formed the last army of Xerxes were defeated by a few slaveholding Confederate States at Marathon, a Plutae, at Salamis and Thermopole. Frederick, of Prussia, fought Europe seven years, and emerged from the smoke and din of that long contest a conqueror. Charles the Twelfth, Sweden, fired his little cannon at the

THE
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IN announcing the Thirty-second and Thirty-third volumes of the Messenger, the publishers take pleasure in acknowledging the unabated confidence of the public and the press in a magazine which, during so many years, has obtained the favor of the Southern people. For more than a quarter of a century, the Messenger has been the exponent of Southern opinion, the medium of Southern genius, the bold and outspoken advocate of Southern institutions. Far from abandoning the position heretofore held in regard to the paramount question of Slavery, it is prepared to take still higher ground. It will maintain, not only that slavery is a social and political blessing, but that its *extension is a necessary condition of its existence.* Essentially, a Southern Magazine, the Messenger claims the right to share the good or evil fortune of the South, whether in the Union or out of the Union.

With respect to its literary merits, the Messenger must speak for itself. Its editorial columns have been illustrated by the genius of Edgar A. Poe and John R. Thompson, and its pages have been adorned by many of the ablest essays, the profoundest criticisms, the most brilliant sketches of the best poetry, and the most popular novels of the age. In verification of this statement, we need but to instance "The Reveries of a Bachelor," "The Flush Times of Alabama," and "Vernon Grove;" all of which were given to the readers of the Messenger before they appeared in the form of books. No pains will be spared to secure literary materials quite as attractive as any that have appeared elsewhere.

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NOTICES OF THE PRESS.

The Messenger is not only a literary journal in the modern sense of the word, but is political to the extent of being ever ready to defend the South and her institutions, without invading the domain of party politics. Its contributors are men of solid ability and established reputation, and its contents are usually a happy compromise between the light literature of Northern Magazines and the heavy and solid intellectual food of the British Reviews.—*New Orleans Crescent.*

The contents are various, lively; and some of the papers exhibit thinking, on the part of the writer, and will require it from the reader. The new editor presents himself gracefully to his reader in his proper department, and opens his game of battle with enthusiasm.—*Charleston Mercury.*

John R. Thompson, Esq., is succeeded by a young man of great talent, already known in literary circles as the author of "The Virginia Editor," "Mozis Abdulls Letters to Billy Ivins," "Blue Eyes and Bawlewick," and many other articles evincing talent and humor. Under the editorial control of Dr. George W. Bagby, we feel assured that the Messenger will, at all times, sustain its rank as one of the best periodicals in the country. We congratulate the readers of the Messenger upon the happy choice of its present editor by the proprietors.—*Virginia Echo.*

Jan. 31, 1851. 24 17

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